

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) ~~A therapeutic agent~~ An ophthalmic composition for treating a keratoconjunctival disorder which comprises  
5-[4-(6-methoxy-1-methyl-1H-benzimidazol-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient together with an ophthalmic carrier.
2. (currently amended) The ~~therapeutic agent~~ ophthalmic composition according to claim 1 wherein said keratoconjunctival disorder is dry eyes, corneal ulcer, keratitis, conjunctivitis, superficial punctate keratopathy, corneal epithelial defects, conjunctival epithelial defects, keratoconjunctivitis sicca, superior limbic keratoconjunctivitis or filamentary keratitis.
3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended) A method for treating a keratoconjunctival disorder which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of 5-[4-(6-methoxy-1-methyl-1H-benzimidazol-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to a patient in need thereof ~~a therapeutically effective amount.~~

5. (currently amended) The ~~therapeutic~~ method according to claim 4 wherein said keratoconjunctival disorder is dry eyes, corneal ulcer, keratitis, conjunctivitis, superficial punctate keratopathy, corneal epithelial defects, conjunctival epithelial defects, keratoconjunctivitis sicca, superior limbic keratoconjunctivitis or filamentary keratitis.

6. (currently amended) The ~~therapeutic~~ method according to claim 4 wherein the administration is instillation of an eye drop ~~or administration of an ophthalmic ointment.~~

7. (canceled).

8. (canceled).

9. (canceled).

10. (new) The method according to claim 5 wherein the administration is instillation of an eye drop.

11. (new) The method according to claim 4 wherein the administration is the application of an ophthalmic ointment.

12. (new) The method according to claim 5 wherein the administration is the application of an ophthalmic ointment.

13. (new) The ophthalmic composition according to claim 1 which is in the dosage form of an eye drop.

14. (new) The ophthalmic composition according to claim 2 which is in the dosage form of an eye drop.

15. (new) The ophthalmic composition of claim 1 which is in the dosage form of an ophthalmic ointment.

16. (new) The ophthalmic composition of claim 2 which is in the dosage form of an ophthalmic ointment.